

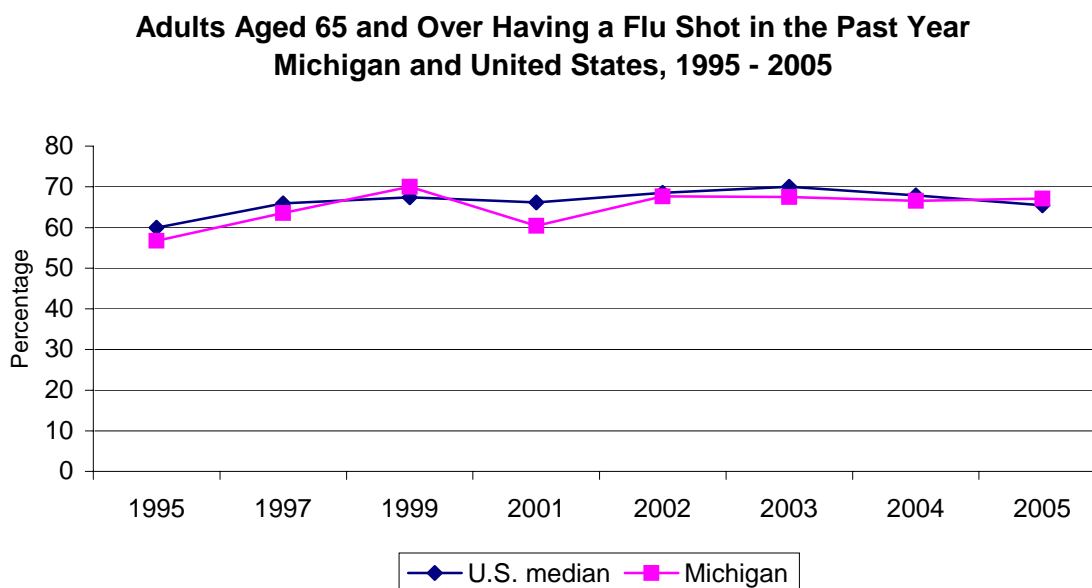


Topic: Immunizations

31. Older Adult Flu Shots

Vaccination programs, traditionally associated with protecting young children from diseases, are increasingly focusing on the lifelong benefits that immunizations bring. One of the greatest public health challenges is extending the success in childhood immunization to the adult population. Illnesses, such as influenza, caused by vaccine-preventable diseases are expensive both in terms of dollars and human lives. In the United States, billions of dollars are spent annually treating adults for vaccine-preventable illnesses, and each year, on average, more than 47,000 adults die from diseases that could have been prevented. Vaccines are available to prevent many potentially debilitating diseases, including influenza, pneumococcal disease, and Hepatitis B virus infection.

How are we doing?



Results from the 2005 MI BRFSS indicate that two-thirds (67.1%) of Michigan adults aged 65 years and older were immunized against influenza in the past year. Compared to 1995, the prevalence of immunization in Michigan among adults 65 years and older increased 18.3%, from 56.7% in 1995 to 67.9% in 2005 for influenza. The trend in Michigan is staying the same.

How does Michigan compare with the U.S.?

Adult immunization rates in Michigan as measured by the BRFSS have remained consistent with those for the United States. Michigan and the nation must work to improve adult immunization rates. As the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) expands to adult populations, we will better be able to measure our successes.

How are different populations affected?

BRFSS shows that only 46.9% of Blacks aged 65 years or older received an influenza vaccine in the past year compared to 69.4% of Whites. This is similar to the national averages which showed that 46.3% of Blacks compared to 67.6% Whites received an influenza vaccine in the past year.



What is the Department of Community Health doing to improve this indicator?

The Department continues to coordinate with local health departments to present educational programs focusing on adult immunizations to private provider practices and physician groups. These programs promote adult immunizations and provide guidance on improving adult immunization programs.

Michigan recently expanded the use of the Immunization Registry, now known as the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) to help in tracking adult immunizations. Prior to this expansion, the MCIR only held records for individuals younger than 20 years of age. This expansion allows providers to track and assess vaccines for all individuals.